

CONDUIT CO. FIGHTS COL. BOB.

ASKS COURT TO PASS ON THE EXTRA MONROE INSPECTORS.

Secretary Nelson of the Consolidated Co. Says That Major Cantor Says That Col. Monroe Said That He Had Right Men That He Wanted to Get Jobs For.

The local Monroe doctrine—otherwise Col. Robert Grier Monroe's alleged scheme to build up a little Monroe machine for a rainy day at the expense of people who lay claim to the streets—was checked yesterday by an application of one of the conduit companies to the courts to compel Col. Monroe to take his hands off. Col. Monroe's young machine also ran up against Borough President Cantor's own machine, and the Corporation Counsel who runs with the machine labelled "C. U."

The matter was brought to court by the Consolidated Telegraph and Electrical Subway Company, through their counsel, Beardsley & Hommes. The Consolidated company is only one of several that have run up against Col. Monroe's aspirations.

A month ago Col. Monroe discovered that the work of laying electrical subways in the city was supervised only by the Borough President's office. These inspectors got \$200 a month each from the companies building the subways.

Why shouldn't the Department of Water Supply and Electricity as well as the Borough President have inspectors who when plumbers, gas companies and electrical conduit companies do things with the streets, the interests of this department shall be considered?

Col. Monroe decided to go right ahead and provide inspectors for the Department with the Long Name Company, and the private companies at the rate of \$120 a month, or 20 per cent more than that man Cantor's G. N. Y. D. S. he accordingly informed the companies that they could get any permits to open streets and do their work unless they hired his \$120 inspectors.

The Consolidated company, which had some important contracts on hand, at once objected to paying two sets of city inspectors.

Col. Monroe said he hadn't appointed two sets of inspectors, but that his set were. He also said that \$100 a month might be enough pay for the new inspectors. He then made out a new form of permit embodying his ideas.

Borough President Cantor heard of Col. Monroe's plan and took the matter to the Corporation Counsel, who decided that one set of inspectors had always been considered enough and to emergency had appeared calling for two sets. Mr. Rives said to Col. Monroe:

"The matter seems to me to be one rather more of administration than of law, and one which should reasonably be adjusted between your own department and the several Borough Presidents, and the system which has been in vogue for many years has generally, I believe, been satisfactory. It seems to me that unless you find instances of neglect on the part of the inspectors and the Borough Presidents can be pointed out, and unless you can show cause why they should not be compelled by writ of mandamus to issue permits of the old sort without any extra inspectors in the game."

These facts and this correspondence on the subject were submitted to Justice O'Gorman in the Supreme Court yesterday when the Consolidated company applied to have Col. Monroe and Major Cantor show cause why they should not be compelled by writ of mandamus to issue permits of the old sort without any extra inspectors in the game.

William J. Sefton, the secretary of the Consolidated company, makes affidavit that Cantor told him to submit to Justice O'Gorman that if the Consolidated company would consent to the appointment by him of four inspectors to be paid for by that company at the rate of \$100 per month, he would not insist upon appointing an inspector on each piece of work, that he had eight men whom he wished to place, and wanted the Empire City Subway Company, limited, to take the other four, and make a similar arrangement with that company.

Sefton says his company offered to pay the four inspectors if the provision for them was kept out of the permit. Monroe, however, said he was going to establish a precedent and refused to withdraw his new permits.

Col. Monroe filed answering affidavits by himself, by Engineer George W. Birdsell, B. Hill, and by Engineer George W. Birdsell. Col. Monroe asserts that the Charter gives his department alone the right to supervise all subways work in the streets, and that he wants only as many inspectors as are absolutely necessary, and that he never told Borough President Cantor that he had eight men he wished to place. Col. Monroe and the engineers also say that the electrical conduit people have laid the conduits dangerously near water mains in many places.

Decision on the case is expected some time this week. It can come none too soon for the Consolidated company. A man who is in touch with the affair said yesterday:

"This Col. Monroe seems to be living up to his reputation as the practical politician of the administration. He is now out-tammanying Tammany. But he will have a hard fight on his hands here. As a matter of fact, Col. Monroe wants the conduit companies and other companies to pay for many more than eight men. If he is allowed to go ahead he is going to make the gas companies, the water companies and the plumbers pay for the building of his machine. Why under his scheme, a plumber will have to pay \$1 to an inspector now every time the plumber opens up a water hydrant for a few minutes. Won't that be fine?"

Col. Monroe, not having got the support of the Corporation Counsel, has got special counsel in this case and is assuming a personal responsibility. He can assume all the blame. The Corporation Counsel has already lost \$10,000 in this trouble and he is going to try to find somebody to pay it back to him.

CITY LABORERS ASK FOR HOLIDAY WITH PAY.

A delegation of workmen, employed in his department, called upon Commissioner Monroe yesterday to request that the laborers and others in the department, who are paid by the day, have a summer vacation with pay. Col. Monroe said he would look into the matter and see that if there were no legal obstacles he would be pleased to grant the request.

NAMES OF CITY HALL BUILDERS

Found Graven on Two Coping Stones—Into the Limestone With Them.

W. M. Aiken, Borough President Cantor's consulting architect, was prowling around the roof of the city hall yesterday when he came across two coping stones on which had been chiseled the names of the committee that had charge of the building of the Hall and of the architect and others. Nearly every public building of any importance in this city has displayed some names, rather less modestly than this, a tablet, sometimes of stone and sometimes of bronze, bearing down to posterity the names of the Mayor and other public officials in whose term the building was put up. In the City Hall there is no such tablet. Hitherto it has been thought that there was no memorial existing to the men who supervised the building of the City Hall, but there is.

Of two coping stones on the southeast corner, one bears the inscription: "Admiral Morris, Fish, Douglas, Messers, Waldron, and Lawrence, Building Committee." On the other is the name of John Lemaire, architect, and the lettering can also be made out of "stone cutter," "master mason" and "clerk," but the names of these officials are not decipherable. The exposure of the stones to the weather of a century has worn away the surface.

It is not singular that the existence of these stones was not known. The lead-covered roof of the City Hall descends at a steep declivity to the coping at this part of the building, and only a sure-footed individual would take the risk of exploring this part of the roof.

Mr. Aiken intends to have the two stones

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